

HIBERRY

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH
OF THE DISTRICT, 1952



M. C. FELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
R. F. FRY, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.

Chairman of the Council :

The Ven. Archdeacon T. BOWSTEAD WILSON, M.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

W. E. RICHARDSON, Esq., J.P.

Members of the Housing and General Purposes Committee

Chairman : THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Vice-Chairman : THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Messrs. C. S. ANTON, E. BRIGHTON, C. D. COOPER, R. K. GEORGE,
S. T. GITTINS, PETER HARRIS, L. R. HYDE, R. E. JONES, T. S.
MAPSON, S. E. POWICK and J. WILLIAMSON

*Co-opted members for advice on housing and nominated by the
Women's Institute : Mrs. D. L. PARKER and Mrs. B. L. BIRCH*

Technical Officers of the Council

M. C. FELL, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., *Medical Officer of Health.*

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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH

Annual Report for the Year 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
OMBERSLEY STREET,
DROITWICH

July, 1953

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

In presenting our joint Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1952 our first duty is to congratulate the Council on the energetic way in which they have performed their statutory duties especially in regard to the provision of new houses, piped water supplies and sewerage and to express the hope that this policy will be pursued, within reasonable financial limits, until the major problems still outstanding are covered. We wish to note with pleasure the practical progress with sewerage schemes and in this connection we hope that the postponement of the Crowle scheme will prove to be of short duration only since this compact community should have the service with as little delay as possible. Very encouraging too is the extension of water mains in various parts of the district and here we would draw attention particularly to those districts which are in urgent need, namely Hartlebury, Stock Green, Hanbury and Tibberton.

The provision of new houses has again been given priority and it is pleasant to note substantial progress in the schemes already under construction and those planned. Much work however remains to be done to satisfy the demand for additional houses in the district, and after this there will be the problem of the sub-standard houses to be tackled. In connection with this, however, we would point out that while there is a number of these sub-standard houses which are beyond redemption and will need demolition, nevertheless there is also quite a large number which could, with substantial repair and improvement, be given a new lease of life, and we wish to draw attention to improvement grants available under the Housing Act, 1949. We advise the Council to encourage private landlords to improve their property in suitable cases by making these grants since in most cases this method will be cheaper than building new houses.

On the other side of the balance sheet we regret the loss in April of part of the district, due to re-arrangement of boundaries and the consequent reduction in rateable value which cannot do otherwise than increase the difficulties of the Council in extending the services now (quite rightly, we think) demanded by villages in the rural district, and we hope that this loss will be compensated by any boundary revision undertaken in the future.

In reverting to the pre-war practice of printing the Annual Report we considered it helpful to list some of the public health services administered by the County Council in the Rural District to complete the picture of the fundamental health services, and we hope that the information will prove useful to members of the Council when dealing with inquiries. Following the normal practice the Report is divided into the following sections :—

- A. Statistics and social conditions of the area.
- B. General provision of health services for the area.
- C. Sanitary circumstances of the area.
- D. Housing.
- E. Inspection and supervision of food.
- F. Prevalence of and control over infectious disease.

Generally figures quoted are for the calendar year, but in the case of public cleansing the figures relate to the financial year 1st April—31st March.

Concluding, we offer sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Council whose help and advice is greatly appreciated and so willingly given, and to the members of the Council generally ; and also to our colleagues, the officers of the Council, and to members of the staff.

We are, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

M. C. FELL and R. F. FRY.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	50,433
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
Rateable Value (Dec. 31st, 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	£75,904
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£300
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	13,040

VITAL STATISTICS

		Males	Females	Total
<i>Live Births</i>				
Legitimate	...	87	92	179
Illegitimate	...	3	5	8
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	14.7
Birth rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	15.3

		Males	Females	Total
<i>Still Births</i>				
Legitimate	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

		Males	Females	Total
<i>Deaths</i>				
From all causes	...	74	68	142
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	9.9
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.3

		Males	Females	Total
<i>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</i>				
Legitimate	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year	...	...	...	32.1
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	27.6

C A U S E S O F D E A T H

				Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	6	6	—
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	—
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	...	...	13	13	—
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	8	5	—
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	—	—
Other heart disease	...	...	11	15	—
Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	3	—
Influenza	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	—	3	5
Bronchitis	...	...	—	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis	...	...	—	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	10	8	—
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	1	—
All other accidents	...	...	—	4	—
Suicide	...	...	—	3	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—

SECTION B

*GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
'SERVICES FOR THE AREA*

(a) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. Ambulance stations which serve the Droitwich Rural District are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. The list below shows the parishes covered by each ambulance station for non-emergency cases. *In all cases of emergency the ambulance should be summoned in the usual way—that is, by asking the Telephone operator for "Ambulance" or by dialling "999."*

Bromsgrove Ambulance Station

Upton Warren Northern part of Parish of Dodderhill

Kidderminster Ambulance Station

Hartlebury

Redditch Ambulance Station

Stock and Bradley

Worcester Ambulance Station

Elmley Lovett	Hanbury	Salwarpe
Elmbridge	Himbleton	Tibberton
Hampton Lovett	Hindlip	Upton Warren
Doverdale	Huddington	Warndon
North Claines	Martin Hassingtree	Westwood
Crowle	Oddingley	
Hadzor	Ombersley	

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolation hospitals. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

(b) *Hospitals*

The district is served by general hospitals situated in Worcester, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The isolation hospital which serves the area is situated at
Newtown Worcester.

Maternity hospitals which serve the district are situated at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(c) *Home Nursing and Health Visiting*

This service is provided by the County Council, and in most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District

Nurse-Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. The following nurses are working in the Rural District :—

Nurse Wilson, Nurse's House, Fernhill Heath. Telephone No.: Fernhill Heath 304.

Nurse Powell, Shaw Lane, Stoke Works. Telephone No.: Bromsgrove 2659.

Nurse Mackay, Rose Cottage, Cutnall Green. Telephone No.: Cutnall Green 233.

Nurse Partridge, Mount Hill Cottage, Hanbury. Telephone No.: Hanbury 209.

Nurse Greenhall, 7, Council House, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle. Telephone No.: Upton Snodsbury 259.

Nurse Powell, 14, Apple Tree Walk, Ombersley. Telephone No.: Ombersley 341.

Nurse Dudley, 27, Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury. Telephone No.: Hartlebury 200.

(d) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children*
The district is served by the following clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open every Saturday at 10.0 a.m. (excepting the 5th Saturday in the month).

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open on 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month at 9.30 a.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove. Open every Monday at 10.0 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open every Saturday at 10.0 a.m. (excepting the 5th Saturday in the month).

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury. Open on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Hanbury. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle. Open on 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Cutnall Green. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath. Open on 2nd Friday in the month at 2.0 p.m.

(e) *Vaccination and Immunisation*

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor or at any of the County Council's Clinics.

During 1952 the following inoculations were done :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	...	...	...	377
Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year	...	...	...	137

VACCINATION

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	...	...	...	...	180
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	...	...	...	...	26

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

These sections place on district medical officers of health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the medical officer of health by the welfare officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

The people concerned are usually aged men or women in poor circumstances who have lived in the same home for many years and have been left alone through bereavement.

With advancing years these old people become less able to look after themselves and consequently they are frequently found in a dirty and neglected state. Even so, from the experience we have gained in visiting these old people we have formed the opinion that compulsory powers for their removal to institutions should only be sought in the most extreme cases.

It appears that this problem of elderly people living alone is likely to increase with an ageing population and we consider that methods of helping these old people in their own homes by the provision of home helps and by the distribution of meals and other amenities should be considered and developed in the future. The following cases were dealt with under this section during the year:—

1. Mr. M. and Miss H., The Caravan, Tugwell Lane, Hartlebury.

These old people were visited after receiving reports from the County Welfare Officer and the District Nurse about the insanitary conditions in which they were living. The following report was made after inspection :—

"Mr. M. states that he is 87 years of age. His doctor reports that he is 'practically bed-ridden and has bed sores.' When seen he was lying on the bed in the caravan partially clothed and in a very dirty condition. The pillows and coverings on the bed were in a filthy condition.

Miss H. gave her age as 75 years—she is totally blind and very weak and has large ulcers on both legs.

These two old people are living in a small caravan in extremely insanitary conditions.

It appears that these two old people are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving from others proper care and attention. Neither is willing to enter a hospital."

On 13th January, 1952, a Magistrate's Order was obtained and these old people were removed to Blakebrook Hospital, Kidderminster.

2. Mr. M., Lovett Cottage, Cutnall Green.

This man aged 86 years, had been living alone for several months since the death of his wife and had been helped by a neighbour. At the beginning of December he had a "stroke" and became bedridden and it was impossible for him to be adequately cared for and nursed in the cottage where he was living.

The medical practitioner who attended him advised his removal to hospital. The old man refused to go into hospital voluntarily and a Magistrate's Order for his removal was obtained and he was admitted to All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) PIPED SUPPLIES

So far as water supply is concerned Droitwich Rural District is divided so that 30,278 acres of the 50,443 falls within the limits of the statutory area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company leaving 20,165 acres to be served by the Droitwich Rural District Council.

The Statutory Area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company

Until this year the only supplies given by the Company were branches from the trunk main supplying the town of Droitwich at Upton Warren and Wychbold. For the past five years the Council has been negotiating with the Company to lay mains within the Company's limits of supply and a comprehensive scheme covering the whole of the Company's area within the Rural District and giving bulk supplies at certain points on the boundary had been drawn up but abandoned by mutual consent because the cost of the scheme which involved substantial additional

capital headworks was considered to be too heavy a commitment to carry out in one operation. Consequently it was decided to proceed with individual extensions within the Company's statutory area of supply, integrating these into the general plan. During the year one long extension was undertaken in the Upton Warren area to bring water to the parish of Elmbridge and arrangements were well in hand to extend this further to the boundary of the Rural District, incidentally affording a supply to the Kidderminster Rural District Council for housing purposes. This scheme has brought water to an area which has been an exceedingly difficult one in the past since the wells there were often dried up in drought periods and what water was available was excessively hard. A second scheme within the Company's statutory area was also carried out at the other side of the district in the parish of Stock and Bradley, also a very difficult area for underground supplies. A third scheme within the Company's area to bring water to the village of Hanbury was approved during the year and a contract was entered into, but at the year end the pipes had not been delivered. So far as this part of the Rural District is concerned therefore, 1952 saw the first fruits of schemes which had been prepared and planned over the last five years. During the year under review plans were made for the next series of integration into the general plan involving extensions to Earls Common, Hampton Lovett, Hadzor and Salwarpe, the last two depending upon an agreement with Droitwich Borough Council. The schemes so far carried out have been done so with the help of substantial grants from the Ministry of Agriculture and it is hoped that either this source of assistance or alternatively assistance under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act will be forthcoming to continue the programme to the other villages in this area.

The Council's Area of Supply

1952 has been by far the best year for progress in extending mains water supply in that portion of the Rural District for which the Council is the statutory undertaker.

The Crowle Supply

The year began well with the official opening by the Hon. G. R. Ward, M.P., of the Crowle Supply on 19th January. The supply was designed to serve properties situated at levels which vary between 279 and 156 feet above Ordnance Datum, the reservoir being sited at 281.78 feet ground level and the top water level at 302 feet above Ordnance Datum. The scheme is based on a consumption of 15,000 gallons per day and the borehole, 16 inches diameter 105 feet deep, was tested at a rate of 36,000 gallons per 24 hours over a continuous period of 336 hours. A small pumphouse over the borehole houses twin submersible pumps each capable of lifting 4,000 gallons per hour through a rising main

1,136 yards from a pumping level of 51.32 feet A.O.D. to the reservoir water level at 302 A.O.D., together with automatic control gear of the time pressure switch type. The whole scheme is so designed as to be integrated into a larger plan at a later date. Since blue lias clay predominates in the area special precautions have been taken in connection with the cast iron valves and fittings and cement-asbestos pipe has been used throughout for the mains. A direct labour force was established to make connections to this supply and in order to encourage people to connect, the Council offered free connections to the boundary of properties in return for a guarantee that a water supply would be taken within three months of the connections being made and that a water rate would be levied on the property at the expiration of the period. This policy has been justified by results since 91 properties in the Council's statutory area have been connected to water mains during the year as against 32 in the previous year.

Direct Labour Extensions

Following inauguration of the Crowle Supply a number of schemes was undertaken by the direct labour organisation beginning with the Martin Hussiantree No. 2 extension in April, the Torton and Stanklyn Lane extensions in August, two short extensions in the Bevere area (Bevere Knoll and Green Lane) in September and part of the Martin Hussiantree No. 3 in October. All these schemes were completed, within the estimates, before the year end and a programme had by then been laid down for the next year.

The Fernhill Heath Supply

This is a bulk supply taken from the City of Worcester at four bulk supply points.

Droitwich Road.—The supply is boosted from a station situated at 106 feet above Ordnance Datum to serve properties in the Fernhill Heath Village area which are at levels varying between 180 and 114 feet A.O.D. This bulk supply point serves about 80 per cent of the properties in the Parish, which receive mains water. The supply operated successfully over the year and incidentally carried the additional load of a supply to the Three Counties Agricultural Show.

Ombersley Road and Northwick Road.—Water is taken direct as an extension of the City of Worcester mains to serve development in the area. The Northwick Road supply extends to Bevere Green and was further extended to Bevere Knoll during the year. The Ombersley Road section gives frequent trouble since pressure available in the houses served is often inadequate and in order to improve this the Northwick Road and Ombersley Road supplies

were joined by an interlinkage main in Green Lane. This improved the position but not sufficiently, and in view of the large number of new houses within the City which are to be fed from the supplying main, and also to allow the Green Lane area to be developed, some form of boosting in the near future seems inevitable.

St. Martin County.—The fourth bulk supply point serves a small number of properties in this area. The bulk of these were houses owned by the City Council and since April that part of the area has been transferred to the City.

The Ombersley Supply.—This supply has proved to be a most successful and economical one. It was originally laid down to serve the Council's housing development but has now been extended to serve half of Ombersley village and arrangements are well in hand to extend to the remainder. The supply consists of a 12-inch diameter bore into the keuper sandstone 176 feet deep. Duplicate submersible pumps are capable of raising water to the overhead pressed steel reservoir at a rate of 4,000 gallons per hour and pumping tests have indicated that the borehole yield is considerably higher than this.

Kidderminster Bulk Supply

This supply which covered the Summerfield area of the Parish of Hartlebury was extended during the year to the Torton area and also to the Stanklyn Lane area, where a bulk supply is now given to the Kidderminster Rural District Council. All the mains are of 3 inches diameter (the same as at the boundary with Kidderminster Borough). During the year negotiations were concluded with Stourport Urban District Council for a bulk supply for the major part of the Hartlebury Parish since it is now a matter of urgency that the Hartlebury Village area which is rapidly developing should have a proper water supply. The scheme for distribution mains has been approved in principle by the Ministry and these will ultimately interlink the Kidderminster and Stourport supplies.

Other Council Supplies

In addition to the sources mentioned above the Council has borehole supplies at Cutnall Green, Hanbury, and Tibberton, which were laid down for housing purposes. In the case of Tibberton the Council has decided to develop the supply and extend it to the village, since many of the shallow wells upon which the village relies for water appear to be polluted.

Comprehensive Scheme for South-East Parishes

Towards the end of the year the Council's consulting engineer submitted proposals for a supply of water from Worcester City to

be distributed through the parishes in the south-east area of the rural district. The scheme has been approved by the County Council and has been submitted to the Ministry.

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES

The remainder of the Rural District other than the areas already mentioned and still containing the greater proportion of properties, derives water supply mainly from shallow wells. In the western half of the area these are dug into the keuper sandstone and in the eastern half they are dug in the marl which overlays the keuper sandstone in increasing thickness in an easterly direction from the line of the "Doverdale Fault." In many cases the supply from these wells is unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity, and it is important that the Council continues to pursue its policy of extending piped supplies through the district. This is especially so in the area of Earls Common, where during the month of August it was necessary again to cart water to the area and distribute it to the householders at a charge of 2d. per gallon.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

All the sources of public supply are examined bacteriologically and chemically at frequent intervals and all samples were reported as satisfactory.

The following samples were taken from private supplies :—

Address	Source of Supply	Result
Broadfield Cottage, Elmbridge ...	Well	Unfit
Salwarpe Court, Nr. Droitwich ...	Well	Unfit
Barn Hall Farm, Ombersley ...	Well	Unfit
Mr. Sadler's Private Main, Hartlebury ...	Borehole	Fit
Hill End House, Salwarpe ...	Well	Fit
Church House, Elmbridge ...	Well	Unfit
Wood Green, Warndon ...	Well	Unfit
Ring-o-Bell Cottage, Elmbridge ...	Well	Unfit
Plough Road, Tibberton ...	Well	Unfit
Plough Road, Tibberton ...	Well	Unfit
New House, Himbleton ...	Well	Unfit
Holly Cottage, Hartlebury ...	Well	Fit
Wood House Farm, Saleway ...	Well	Unfit
The Stores, Tibberton ...	Well	Unfit
Park Cottage, Hartlebury ...	Well	Unfit
Post Office, Tibberton ...	Well	Unfit
Haye Lane, Ombersley ...	Well	Unfit
Hunt Green Cottage, Ombersley ...	Well	Unfit
The Croft, Tibberton ...	Well	Unfit
Church House, Elmbridge ...	Well	Unfit
Barn Hall Farm, Ombersley ...	Well	Unfit

<i>Address</i>		<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Result</i>
New House, Himbleton	Well Unfit
Home Farm, Hadzor	Spring Unfit
Clacks Farm, Boreley	Well Unfit
Church House, Elmbridge	Well Unfit
Hill End House, Salwarpe	Well Fit
St. Martin, Hartlebury	Private Main Fit
Hall Farm, Huddington	Well Unfit
Wellington House, Ombersley	Well Unfit
Cow Lane, Sytchampton	Well Unfit
Glebe Farm, Lineholt	Well Unfit
Hadley Heath, Nr. Droitwich	Well Fit
Newland Farm, Newland	Well Unfit
Woodgreen, Warndon	Well Unfit
Cummiings Farm, Hindlip	Well Unfit
Cummings Farm, Hindlip	Well Unfit
Hindlip Cottages, Pershore Lane, Martin Hussingtree	Well Unfit
Broadfield Cottage, Elmbridge	Well Unfit
Neight Hill, Himbleton	Well Fit

The only measures that can be taken in the unfit cases is to advise occupiers to boil drinking water before use and in the meantime try to trace the sources of pollution and where these are found steps can be taken to prevent the polluting agent reaching the supply. In cases where the pollution cannot be traced advice on chlorination of the supply is given. The results, once again, underline the need for extension of mains water through the district.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As in the case of the extension of mains water supply, 1952 saw some positive progress of plans which were formulated in the early post-war period, although there was some disappointment also. In 1946 the Council resolved to lay down comprehensive sewerage schemes at Hartlebury, Ombersley, Wychbold and Crowle and instructed their consulting engineer to prepare plans for these schemes.

The Hartlebury Scheme

The first of these schemes came to fruition in 1952 when the Hartlebury scheme came into operation, so that the Council now has two parish sewerage schemes in the district, namely North Claines and Hartlebury. The original Hartlebury scheme provided for the main village area together with Torton, Charlton and the Station Road area, but these last three sections were lopped off the scheme in the process of government approval and a portion of the village area which involved the laying of a trunk sewer

along the trunk road A.449 met a similar fate. However, we must be thankful for small mercies, for the most heavily populated part of the Hartlebury Parish now has a modern comprehensive sewerage system and a number of inefficient and overloaded small disposal systems have been superceded. Sewage from this area runs by gravity to a central pumping station where storm water is spilled through tanks to a tributary of the Severn. The crude sewage is pumped through a rising main into the pumping main of the Stourport U.D.C. and from there to the Kidderminster Joint Works on the Stourport Road. A second small pumping station deals with the flow from part of the Council's housing site and St. Gilbert's Approved School. At the year end 70 properties were connected and the work was proceeding.

The Ombersley Scheme

A public enquiry into the Ombersley Scheme was held on 30th January, 1952. In its chequered preparation stage the scheme had been completely altered so that whereas in the first place a disposal works was proposed in the southern drainage area the one presented at the public enquiry proposed the works in the northern drainage area. The lack of adequate sewage disposal facilities has prevented further building in the Parish for some years, although the demand for houses is still substantial, and it was shown at the enquiry that young people were leaving the village to seek accommodation elsewhere. The scheme, with some modifications, received Ministry approval in April and orders were placed for cast iron pipes, the delivery period for which was quoted as two years, while the contract documents were prepared. Thus arrangements were well advanced for the scheme to be carried out but by the year end work had not commenced.

The Crowle Scheme

This unfortunate scheme altered on at least three occasions, failed Ministry approval following an informal enquiry on 30th January, 1952. From the old records of the Council and its predecessor, the Board of Guardians, a sewerage scheme for this village was first formulated before the beginning of this century, and this and a number of further attempts to provide adequate sewerage facilities for the village failed for various reasons. One can understand this during the period of parochial sewerage rates since the topography is difficult and any scheme would involve pumping and consequently be expensive when compared with the rateable value of the parish. Anyone who doubts the necessity of a sewerage scheme for the village area should see the conditions of the ditches there which are no more than open sewers, and very little can be done to improve them as the geology of the district, with blue lias clay predominating, does not permit efficient filtration from small domestic sewage disposal plants. The

inauguration of a piped water supply, whilst allaying the fear of pollution of drinking water, has increased the flow of sewage, and a comprehensive sewerage scheme should not be long delayed. It is a great disappointment that completion of the final proposals for the comprehensive scheme coincided with a period of reduced capital expenditure when only schemes necessary for the housing programme could be approved.

The Wychbold or Dodderhill Scheme

Another scheme which has been on the drawing board since the early post-war years received County Council approval during the year and protracted negotiations for the necessary land were completed, so that the scheme could be presented for loan sanction. It had always been hoped that the scheme would be undertaken in time to receive sewage from the large site purchased in 1947 for housing development, but since the scheme had not been started by the middle of 1952 the Council decided they could no longer wait and arranged to proceed with house development and lay down a temporary sewage plant to deal with those houses which would be completed before the comprehensive sewerage scheme was ready. At the year end the comprehensive scheme had not been approved nor had an enquiry been held.

The Fernhill Heath Works

This plant, which receives sewage from the greater part of the North Claines Parish, was laid down in 1938 and was operated successfully during the year. The sewage after passing through sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks, is discharged to a tributary of the Salwarpe, and the effluent throughout the year was satisfactory. On August 6th a total of 2 inches of rain fell within 24 hours and the flow into the works rose very considerably, which proves that a fair amount of surface water is being received into the sewers. This should not be so and every effort is made by the Department to prevent the connection of surface water drains to the sewers wherever possible, since the operation costs are increased and even more important the capacity of the works is taken up by the needless treatment of rain water. Of course the admission of a quantity of rainwater from the back roofs of properties is inevitable without very expensive reorganisation of house drainage systems, but front roofs and paved areas should not be connected to the foul sewer, otherwise the Council's sewage disposal costs are bound to increase unnecessarily.

Cesspool Emptying Service

This service inaugurated in 1951 was gradually extended during the year, and from letters received it is quite obvious that the ratepayers appreciate the facilities offered. A standard

charge of £1 per visit is made and a number of contracts have been entered into with owners of business premises on a cost basis. The one machine, a Karrier of 750 gallons capacity, fitted with nightsoil attachment, gave little trouble from the maintenance point of view.

In addition to the service to ratepayers the machine is used on the small sewage disposal plants on the Council's housing estates and a nightsoil collection is made in the Parish of North Claines, from those properties not connected to the sewerage scheme laid down as a charge on the parochial rate in 1938. Some of these properties could be connected to the sewer and the time has now arrived, we think, when a scheme for connecting them should be undertaken.

<i>The cost of the Cesspool Emptying Service</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Wages		245
Vehicle JUY 248—Licence and Insurance	48	
Petrol, oil, etc.	153	
Repairs and maintenance	26	
Equipment	—	
		227
EXPENDITURE		472
INCOME—Charges		190
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>£282</u>

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

This service covers the whole district, a weekly collection being given in the village areas and approximately a three-weekly collection in the outlying areas. In response to appeals from parish councils the Council decided during the year to improve collection in the outlying areas and give a fortnightly collection wherever possible. To achieve this an 11 cubic yard rear-loading moving floor Karrier vehicle was purchased, allowing the 5 cubic yard Karrier Bantam machine to serve as a spare vehicle. The fleet of refuse vehicles now consists of two CK3 Karrier 7 cubic yard side-loading vehicles, the 11 cubic yard machine described above, with the Bantam in reserve. Complaints about the service are now very few indeed, in fact less than half a dozen have been received over the past twelve months, and experience shows that this is a good indication that an efficient service is being given. The Council can be justifiably proud of the refuse collection service, which affects every ratepayer in the district and which has been maintained very closely to schedule in spite of adverse

weather conditions during the year. Although the fortnightly collection has not yet been achieved over the whole of the outlying areas it should be possible to reach the target during the summer months next year when the weight of refuse decreases, and once reached it should be possible to maintain it.

The details of the service are as follows :—

Number of houses for refuse collection	...	...	...	3,840
,, ,, having bins	...	...	...	3,402
,, ,, ,, ashpits	...	...	...	438
,, ,, ,, weekly collection	...	...	...	2,098
,, ,, ,, three-weekly collection	...	...	...	1,742
,, ,, pails emptied weekly	...	...	...	260

The number of loads collected during the year was 1,517, each of approximately 4 tons, so that the total weight of refuse collected amounted to 6,068 tons.

Bin Sales

Since it is often very difficult for people in country districts to get a single bin delivered, the Council operates a bin purchase scheme based on cost prices. Bins ordered are delivered by the refuse collection vehicles. The scheme also helps with the abolition of ashpits, which are expensive to empty.

Refuse Disposal

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central tip. Screened clinker, obtained from an electricity generating station, is used as a cover to the refuse and has proved to be very suitable for the purpose. Since the cost of the clinker is very low (about 1½d. per ton, plus the cost of transport in the Council's own vehicle), refuse is disposed of in a hygienic manner for a minimum cost. The tip is kept under constant observation for rat and other infestation, the normal practice being to treat the tip for rats at quarterly intervals.

Salvage

The boom conditions for waste paper broke during the year and within twelve months the price has dropped from £25 15s. 0d. to £7 10s. 0d. per ton. At this price a special waste paper collection is not profitable, but since the paper is collected in this district at the same time as the refuse, a collection has been continued and in this way a proportion of the cost of the refuse collection service is borne by the salvage sales.

In response to a public appeal a special collection of scrap iron was organised during June, but only about 5 tons were received. It was found that many of the farmers in the area had already taken advantage of a scheme for disposal of scrap iron through agricultural organisations.

					£ s. d.
Salvage sold during the calendar year was as follows :—					
Baled waste paper	...	...	...	...	206 15 4
Scrap iron	...	...	...	...	23 15 0
				TOTAL	£230 10 4

The Cost of the Public Cleansing Service

The rising cost of labour and transport and the fall in revenue from salvage affected this service considerably, as will be seen from the comparative cost of 1951/2 and 1952/3.

Collection and Disposal

					1952/3
1951/2					<i>£</i>
3,109	Wages, including drivers	...	...	...	3,451
5	Disinfectants	...	...	...	8
44	Clothing	...	...	...	51
13	Implements and tools...	...	...	...	25
14	Maintenance of tips	...	...	...	115
5	Rent and Insurance	...	...	...	5
	<i>Vehicles</i>				
33	EUY 173.	Licence and insurance	...	...	33
144		Petrol, oil, etc.	...	...	74
177		Repairs and maintenance	...	...	20
35	JUY 994.	Licence and insurance	...	...	45
183		Petrol, oil, etc.	...	...	185
9		Repairs and maintenance	...	...	13
35	JUY 995.	Licence and insurance	...	...	45
174		Petrol, oil, etc.	...	...	205
2		Repairs and maintenance	...	...	26
	KWP 390.	Licence and insurance (new vehicle)	...	...	86
		Petrol, oil, etc.	...	...	150
		Repairs and maintenance	...	...	15
		Loan charges	...	...	135
		Purchase price in excess of loan consent	...	...	93
					4780
		EXPENDITURE			
	<i>Income :</i>				
3	Charges for Trade Refuse	...	...	...	10
200	Transfer from salvage	...	...	...	—
	<i>Salvage</i>				
126	Wages and bonus to Refuse Collectors	...	...	...	150
11	Packing materials	...	...	...	10
2	Weight Tickets, etc.	...	...	...	2
200	Proportion—Expenses of Refuse Collection	...	...	...	162
		EXPENDITURE			
	<i>Income :</i>				
524	Sales	...	...	...	230

SECTION D

H O U S I N G

New Housing

The housing policy of the Council during the year reflected the new Government's policy both as regards the size of house and increased number under construction and completed, so that 44 houses were completed as against 28 in the previous year. The 439 houses built by the Worcester City Council in the district were removed from the Rural District into the City of Worcester by the boundary revision to the parish of St. Martin County which left a net increase of new dwellings erected in the district since the war of 300.

The Council's policy adopted during the previous year of varying the accommodation offered was continued and greater prominence was given to the erection of two-bedroomed houses and flats, the latter having proved to be both economical and satisfactory to the tenants. By the year end, terraced houses and three-storey flats were being incorporated into the housing programme.

The following new housing was undertaken by the Council during the year :—

- (a) Six three-bedroomed houses in pairs at Tibberton, together with a water supply from the borehole and sewage works in which the flow from the settlement tanks has to be pumped over the filter.
- (b) A further development of the Hanbury Courts Close Estate by the addition of eight houses and four bungalows.
- (c) An extension to the Dilmore Estate by the erection of 24 flats.
- (d) The development of a site at Wychbold to accommodate approximately 100 housing units and the erection of 18 houses and 30 flats.
- (e) Further development of the Hartlebury Estate by the erection of eight two-bedroomed houses in two blocks of four and eight two-bedroomed flats.
- (f) Terrace houses at Bradley Green (4) and Tibberton (6).

Of the houses listed above, 44 were completed during the year and the remainder were in varying degrees of construction.

Housing Sites

Progress in the acquisition of sites has been far from satisfactory especially in the case of Himbleton and Crowle, where negotiations have been going on for well over twelve months without any settlement. Sites are in the process of being acquired at Sale Green, Salwarpe, Upton Warren, Ombersley and Fernhill Heath.

In an effort to encourage private development, the Council has earmarked plots on their sites at Wychbold and Hartlebury for sale to persons in need of housing accommodation and a number of applications for these plots have been received. The need for new houses in the rural district is still very great indeed. The number of applications for council houses being over 1,000. The principal demand is in the parishes of Hartlebury, Ombersley and North Claines. Since the survey undertaken in 1937, no figures have been available to show the exact extent of overcrowding in the district, and this survey of course gives no guide at all to the present position, but judging from the applications for council houses, one can only assume that a fairly heavy degree of overcrowding does exist in the district. Quite apart from the overcrowding, no concerted attempt has been possible to replace houses which were shown by the housing survey in 1946/47 to be so unfit as to be incapable of repair. There were 340 of these houses, representing 10.8 per cent of the total houses then in the rural district. In addition to these, the survey showed that 589 houses, or 18.8 per cent of the houses in the district, were in need of structural repair which to a very large extent they have not received, due principally to the lack of financial incentive to landlords whose rent income is fixed although repair expenditure has risen very considerably, and secondly to the low licensing ceiling allocated to the local authority for repairs.

Housing Act, 1949

Although provisions of this Act provided for Improvement Grants to be made available to private landlords who were prepared to improve their property, very little advantage has been taken, since only six applications were received. By the end of the year only two of these had been approved by the Ministry. One of the inherent difficulties in this matter has been the fact that the Grants were not available in the case of tied cottages, but this has since been conceded and it is to be hoped that more private landlords will take advantage of the provisions of this Act in the future, especially with regard to tied cottages. To enable this to be done the licence ceiling for repairs allowed to the Council should be substantially increased.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...						215

2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...						Nil
3.		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
4.		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...						71
2.		<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>							
		Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
3.		<i>Action under statutory powers during the year</i>							
(a)		PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—							
(1)		Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—							
(a)		by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)		by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)		<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</i>							
(1)		Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...						2
(2)		Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a)		by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)		by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)		PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—							
(1)		Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	}
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	...
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	...
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	No detailed figures available
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	...
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	...
(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ...	...

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

The following table shows the work carried out in factories in the Rural District during the year.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. *Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health*

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	1	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	40	53	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	31	67	—	—
TOTAL ...		72	123	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number in cases in which prosecution instituted (7)	
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred H.M. Inspector (5)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	—	1	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	1	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	12	1	1	—	1	—	
TOTAL ...	60	3	3	—	3	—	

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

General

Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold was carried out and a number of improvements effected as a result of informal action. The Council decided during the year to make byelaws under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for "securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air" and also decided to circulate a copy of the byelaws, when approved and printed, to every food shop and trader in the district.

Meat

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the district in use at the present time and meat consumed in the area is drawn from abattoirs at Worcester and Kidderminster, where systematic post-mortem inspections are carried out by the staffs of those local authorities. Nevertheless occasional spot inspections of meat in the butchers' shops were made and also inspections were made on request by the butchers, and in this way, as is shown in the list below, 115 lbs. of beef were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Three members of the staff are qualified meat and food inspectors.

Milk

Since the re-arrangement of duties between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, supervision of milk production is no longer the Council's responsibility although the supervision of milk distribution is still retained by local authorities. Under this heading dairies are inspected and samples submitted for analysis. There are four pasteurising plants situated in the area from which regular routine samples are taken and it says a great deal for the care and efficiency of the operators that all samples taken during the year satisfied the prescribed tests.

Ice Cream

There are no producers of ice cream in the district, but quite a number of retailers who have to be registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The conditions of registration are laid down in Section 13 of that Act and in operating it a number of improvements to premises have been made. One of the conditions of Section 13 is that "a sufficient supply of . . . clean water, both hot and cold" shall be provided and in a few cases interested parties have held that we have been too strict in this matter in view of the difficulties sometimes encountered in providing hot and cold water in a rural area. We do however consider this an essential precaution to insist upon, especially since the sale of ice cream in the district is invariably carried out in conjunction with the sale of other commodities.

Condemnation of Unfit Food

The following is a list of the foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Sultanas	...	...	300 lbs.
Raisins	...	...	90 lbs.
Tinned pork	...	...	3 lbs.
Beef	...	...	115 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	34 lbs.
Tinned fruit	...	...	6 lbs. 5 ozs.
Cheese	...	...	8½ lbs.
Tinned beef	...	...	12 ozs.
Honey	...	...	1 lb.

INFESTATION OF PREMISES

Rodent Control

The Council employs a full-time rat catcher who is responsible for inspection of all properties in the district and who deals with infestations in non-agricultural properties. He also regularly inspects and treats the Council's own property and special attention is paid to refuse tips and sewage disposal works. During the year 851 inspections of properties were made, including 36 business premises, 54 agricultural premises and 27 council properties, the remainder being private properties.

As a result of these inspections, 187 premises were found to be infested with rats, 47 being major infestations. All the infestations were dealt with by the use of baits and poisons. The total number of dead rats picked up was 436.

Pest Control

The duties falling upon the Council due to verminous premises are, we are pleased to say, very light, but a small number of insect infestations have been dealt with by the use of D.D.T. and other chemical agents.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

It is very pleasing to report that the general health of the district remained satisfactory throughout the year, although a large number of cases of measles notified towards the end of the year formed part of a generalized epidemic which affected the country as a whole.

There were, however, no deaths from the disease.

One very pleasing aspect in the incidence of infectious disease in the district was that during the year no cases of diphtheria were notified, and it is reasonable to connect this with the immunisation scheme for protection against the disease.

Generally speaking, cases of food poisoning in the country are becoming more common, and this is associated with the increasing number of canteens and restaurants and the growing scope of the general public in taking meals outside.

Only one notified case, however, occurred in the district, a case of salmonella enteritidis, was notified during the month of June. The case was a mild one, the subject being a boy of 3 years.

The following table indicates all infectious disease in the district in 1952 :—

THE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1952 IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE

	Under One Year		1		2		3		4		5		10		15		20		35		45		65		Total cases notified		Cases admitted		Total deaths	
1. Scarlet Fever	1	10	11	6	61	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
2. Measles	2	5	2	4	2	2	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	97	—	—	—
3. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	8	4	15	13	11	75	7	2	5	2	2	2	146	—	—	—	

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES DURING THE YEAR

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Influenza Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia
Doverdale	—	—	—	—	—
North Claines	...	1	24	9	3	—	—
Dodderhill	...	—	18	2	—	—	—
Elmbridge	...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Elmley Lovett	...	—	6	—	—	—	—
Hanbury	...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Hartlebury	...	3	40	6	1	1	1
Himbleton	...	—	—	2	—	—	—
Hindlip	...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Martin Hussingtree	...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Omersley	...	—	3	1	2	—	1
St. Martin Co.	...	4	—	3	1	—	—
Upton Warren	...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wardown	...	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	8	97	30	1	7	1

Tuberculosis

New cases and deaths notified during 1952 are shown in the following table :—

New cases				Deaths			
Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	2	1	—	2	—	—	—

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
*Cases remaining on the Register at end of December, 1951 ...	51	30	8	4
*Cases remaining on the Register at end of December, 1952 ...	37	28	8	4

*Fourteen cases were transferred to the Worcester City register following the alteration to the city boundary during the year.

